

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9 and 15-16 are pending. Claim 8 was previously canceled and claims 11-14 were previously withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected group. Claims 1 and 15 are amended and claims 8 and 11-14 are canceled by way of the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crouch in view of Ingham and further in view of Tsuchiya et al. and Rottenberger et al.; claim 16 was indicated as allowed; and claims 8 and 15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

First, Applicants wish to thank Examiner Siconolfi for the early indication of allowable subject matter in claims 8, 15 and 16. To that end, the limitations of claim 8 have been incorporated into claim 1 so that amended claim 1 is equivalent to claim 8 written in independent form; and the limitations of claim 1 have been incorporated into claim 15 so that amended claim 15 is also now presented in independent form. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 15 and 16, and claims dependent thereon, are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

If a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 22362-00008-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: July 10, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

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